

said in the past, the act of adoption itself represents the value that Americans place on the worth of each human life, and it is throughout this particular month of the year that we take time to reaffirm this sacrificial and rewarding act.

VOTE EXPLANATIONS

• Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I was not present for the votes on Senator COBURN's motion to commit H.R. 3082 to the Senate Committee on Appropriations and amendment No. 2757, which was also introduced by Senator COBURN. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to commit and voted yea in favor of amendment No. 2757.●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUANITA HELMS

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I wish to remember the life of an extraordinary resident from my home State of Alaska, Juanita Lou Helms. Ms. Helms passed away on November 7, 2009, in her hometown of Fairbanks. She was 68.

Ms. Helms was active in local community organizations, politics, and most importantly, was devoted to her husband, their four children, and grandchildren.

Juanita began her public service on the borough assembly in 1980, but she is most well known in the community for becoming the Fairbanks North Star Borough's first female mayor in 1985. During her two terms, Mayor Helms shepherded the Borough through difficult financial times. As an "open door" mayor and terrific listener, she inspired the trust needed to find common ground among her constituents.

Among her accomplishments was the construction of the community's convention center, improving air quality, and helping thaw the "ice curtain" by establishing a sister city relationship with Yakutsk in Eastern Russia.

Away from the political realm, Ms. Helms was involved in innumerable civic endeavors, especially parent-teacher groups in Fairbanks. She also held an assortment of jobs in the community from carhop to court clerk to rental property manager.

In her personal life Juanita was an avid dancer who was loved by her family and all who knew her. She and her husband Sam were devoted to their children Fawn, Selene, Ren, and Karisse. They were so deeply involved in their lives and those of their many grandchildren that the number of events they attended and participated in are virtually countless.

Juanita will be missed by her family, friends, and all of the people she touched in the State of Alaska.●

REMEMBERING ANNIE ASHENFELTER

• Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of Annie

"Akkuluq" Ashenfelter. I am saddened to announce with her passing on October 8, 2009, the village of White Mountain and the great State of Alaska lost an elder of great cultural knowledge, wisdom, and language. The magnitude of this loss is better understood by recalling the immense contributions she gave her family, community, and region.

Annie was born in White Mountain on January 24, 1913. She spoke Inupiat as her first language and learned English when she went to school. She completed the third grade.

Annie lived a subsistence life, reliant on the land and its resources to sustain her family. Annie's steadfast connection to her Inupiat identity ensured her children, grandchildren and her many generations to follow would remain grounded in those same cultural roots and values. Annie loved to go camping and fishing, living off the land, spending 90 years of her life sharing this love with her family. She enjoyed preparing Native food and sharing what she had with others. Annie was a talented sewer, of both children's clothing and animal skins. She made all 10 of her children's clothing: pants, shirts, parkies, mukluks, and mittens.

Annie was a pillar of her community. She had strength of character, embodied knowledge of the land, and symbolized the resilience of the Inupiat people. Her kind heart has left a permanent mark on the lives of countless individuals. Annie was easy to laugh, had good memories, and enjoyed the simple things in life: getting up in the morning, having her morning cup of coffee, sitting at the window and observing life in White Mountain. Annie never had a bad word to say about anyone, ever. Even during the difficult times, she lived her life with grace, humor, love, strength, joy and understanding. Annie was a strong Fish River Inupiaq woman.

Mr. President and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Annie "Akkuluq" Ashenfelter, whose love and wisdom will forever be in the memories of those who loved and knew her.●

TRIBUTE TO EDEN SUTLEY

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor a very special Louisianian, Eden Sutley, who has served her State and Nation with great distinction. Eden is a Lafayette, LA, native who is currently a junior at the George Washington University in Washington, DC. Just like Louisiana's senior Senator, Eden Sutley is a proud member of the Delta Gamma Fraternity.

Winston Churchill, one of the great figures of World War II, once said: "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give."

Eden Sutley may not know what she wants to do to earn a living after college, but her volunteer spirit and desire to give back to the "greatest genera-

tion" precisely highlights the sentiment to which Mr. Churchill refers.

At the urging of her father, 2 years ago Eden became involved with Louisiana HonorAir Program. This group, based in Eden's hometown of Lafayette, honors surviving World War II veterans by giving them an opportunity to see the Washington, DC, memorials dedicated to their service. After flying up from Louisiana, the veterans visit the World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Iwo Jima memorials and travel to Arlington National Cemetery.

Eden Sutley has played an important role during HonorAir's trips to Washington, DC. For each visit, Eden organizes about 40 of her sorority sisters to come out and assist these World War II heroes. They help by pushing wheelchairs, taking pictures, and handing out water as these Louisiana World War II veterans experience the Nation's Capital, many for the first time.

In all, Eden has recruited over 200 sorority sisters to lend a hand to our HonorAir veterans. They have volunteered on more than a dozen Saturdays since 2007, helping over 1,000 veterans. There have been seven different flights this year alone, including the last trip of the year, which occurred October 24.

Volunteering with HonorAir to assist the World War II veterans is so popular among her fellow Delta Gammas that some sisters come back to help out even after they have graduated. Eden has also inspired two other Louisianians, Terricia Soyombo and Brooke Oschner, who are also Delta Gammas at George Washington University, to become part of this effort. Through her role as Delta Gamma president at George Washington, Eden has been instrumental in getting other Greek organizations involved, as well.

Eden has demonstrated a passion for public service that serves as a model for college students across our great country. On behalf of Louisiana HonorAir and our entire State, I thank Eden for her leadership, for her willingness to give back, and for inspiring others to do the same.●

TRIBUTE TO LOUISIANA WWII VETERANS

• Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I am proud to honor a group of 97 World War II veterans from all over Louisiana who travelled to Washington, DC, on October 24 to visit the various memorials and monuments that recognize the sacrifices of our Nation's invaluable servicemembers.

Louisiana HonorAir, a group based in Lafayette, LA, sponsored this trip to the Nation's Capital. The organization is honoring surviving World War II Louisiana veterans by giving them an opportunity to see the memorials dedicated to their service. The veterans visited the World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iwo Jima memorials. They also travelled to Arlington National Cemetery.